



NANTUCKET CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.

118 CLIFF ROAD • POST OFFICE BOX 13 • NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS 02554-0013

Guidelines for Deer Hunters on Nantucket Conservation Foundation Properties

Revised December 29, 2004

Whether you are a resident or visitor, you will benefit from knowing more about the ownership and use of Nantucket's open lands, as well as becoming familiar with some of our local traditions.

Areas open to the public for hunting on the island include both publicly- and privately-owned land. While many public and private landowners make their properties available for responsible hunting, the majority of the land open to hunting is owned by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. This document contains information on the current hunting guidelines of the Foundation, state hunting regulations, and the long-held customs of Nantucket hunters.

The Foundation is a privately-administered, non-profit conservation organization, that was established in 1963 to preserve and protect places of natural importance on Nantucket. It presently owns and manages over 8,700 acres of undeveloped land, much of which provide habitat for the white-tailed deer. These lands are private property and are open only to those who comply with guidelines established by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Deer hunting during designated seasons (archery, shotgun, and primitive firearms) is allowed on most Foundation properties. Exceptions include parcels that receive high levels of year-round pedestrian use. **Closed properties are conspicuously posted** and include, among others, **The Sanford Farm** (NCF 146), **Ram Pasture and The Woods** (NCF 23, 24, and 186), the **Tupancy Links** on Cliff Road (NCF 59, 94, and 112), the **Masquetuck Reservation** in Quaise (NCF 169), property bordering the **Quaise Road** (NCF 79 and 101), and portions of the **Windswept Cranberry Bog** (NCF 102 and 140). (The numbers shown here match those on the Foundation's Properties Map, available at its office or by mail.)

As the stewards of 29% of Nantucket's land area, the Foundation's Board is mindful of the need to manage the size of the Island's deer herd, especially because of the connection between the number of deer and the high incidence of Lyme Disease and other tick-transmitted diseases. The Foundation's hunting policies have been established with the understanding that deer hunting is necessary for the continued well-being of the deer herd, the health and safety of the people who live on or visit the island, and the quality of the natural habitat that we all share.

The following regulations and guidelines have been adopted to ensure that hunting by responsible sportsmen and sportswomen is a safe experience for all:

1. By law, hunting is only permitted between 1/2 hour before sunrise and 1/2 hour after sunset. **Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.**
2. Maintain a legal distance away from occupied buildings or those that may be in use and paved roads (and bicycle paths). **In Massachusetts the discharge of any firearm or release of any arrow upon or across a paved road or within 150 feet of such road, or possession of a loaded firearm, discharge of a firearm or hunting on the land of another within 500 feet of any structure in use is prohibited.** Massachusetts laws also requires that all firearms must be unloaded while in or on any motor vehicle.
3. Respect the rights and wishes of all property owners - including areas that are posted, to prohibit trespassing and/or hunting.
4. Keep vehicles on well-established roads. Don't drive or park on Nantucket's grasslands or moors; they are rare, extremely fragile, and easily damaged.
5. Don't drink alcohol while engaged in any hunting-related activities.
6. Don't litter. Carry your trash out. Dispose of entrails and carcasses properly.
7. **HUNT SAFELY!** Be alert and courteous to pedestrians, bicyclists, dog walkers and their pets, and other non-hunters who are also out to enjoy Nantucket's open lands.

Helpful Tips and Information:

1. Check yourself thoroughly for ticks. Information about ticks and tick-borne diseases is available at the Foundation's office or at Nantucket Cottage Hospital (57 Prospect St.).
2. For information regarding hunting on properties owned by the Nantucket Land Bank Commission (a public agency) visit their office at 22 Broad Street or call 508-228-7240.
3. Important telephone numbers:

EMERGENCIES - Police/Fire/Ambulance	911
Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife (Westborough)	508-792-7270
<i>all licensing and permit information</i>	
State Environmental Police ("game warden")	508-257-6932
State Police (non-emergency)	508-228-0706
Nantucket Police (non-emergency)	508-228-1212
Town of Nantucket Visitor Services (housing information)	508-228-0925
Nantucket Chamber of Commerce	508-228-1700
Steamship Authority (car reservation information)	508-477-8600
<i>approximately \$250 roundtrip per vehicle, \$28 per passenger</i>	
Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Inc.	508-228-2884
Nantucket Land Bank Commission	508-228-7240
Nantucket Hunting Association	508-257-4082